ANCIENT SKIES

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SPACESHIPS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

BY ROBIN COLLYNS*

The Egyptian Book of the Dead (1,600-900 BC), describes spacecraft in explicit,though unusual terms. Of particular interest, is a reference to the Upper Egypt city of Edfu where, it was said, the "great winged discs" were "forged." Or manufactured?In unmistakably describing a discoid space vehicle, the Book of the Dead records that: "From the height of Heaven, Heru-Behutet was able to see his father's enemies,and he chased them in the form of the great winged disc." See Figure 1.

Figure 1. Winged disc painted on a lintel of a Temple in Upper Egypt. Photo: Gene M. Phillips.

Excerpts from the following papyri from the Book of the Dead, which are kept in the British Museum, are of undoubted interest to the ancient astronaut hypothesis: In the Papyrus of Nebseni, No. 9,900, sheet 6, we read that: "The shining eye of Horus cometh. The brilliant eye of Horus cometh." The Papyrus of Nu, No. 10,477, sheet 9, states: "I have alighted like the hawk by the divine clouds....I have journeyed from the Earth to the Heaven." The same papyrus mentions the deity Osiris in his celestial "boat," which"saileth round about in Heaven, rising like the Sun in the darkness." Sheet 17 of the Nu papyrus states that Osiris: "cometh upon the flame of thy boat." Sheet 20 of the Nu papyrus quotes Osiris who said: "I have gone down to Earth in the two great boats." Osiris and Isis were associated with the "Constellation of the Dog";that is, Canis Major, which is a point of interest of possible significance in ancient astronaut research.

Research into legends, papyri and hieroglyphs,reveals that discoid, cigar-shaped, winged and apparently boat-shaped flying vehicles were frequent visitors to Egypt in ancient days. In this connection, we could speculate whether the Egyptian "sun boats" were actually space vehicles powered by solar energy. If this was the case,the following hypothetical scenario could be formed: a solar boat spacecraft could have been launched through the atmosphere under its own propulsion or alternatively, it could have been launched by high-energy lasers. This idea is feasible: at the U.S. Avco-Everett Research Laboratories the scientists A.N. Pirri and R.F. Weiss calculated that a 3,000 megawatt ground-based laser pulsing at 250 hertz, could suspend a spaceship in our atmosphere. Once the sunboats were freed from the atmosphere, they could have been propelled by the "solar wind."This is a small but measurable energy force emitted from the Sun. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory has under development a "space yacht," evidently a 20th century sunboat, with a sail area of about 260 square metres.If the "yacht" was launched from a rocket travelling at 8 kilometres per second, initially the craft would pick up solar wind and travel only one-hundredth of a metre a second; but within 100 days, the spacecraft would be travelling at 16 kilometres per second, and within two years it would flash through the cosmos at 60 kilometres per second.

Perhaps relative to the Egyptian legends, is the fact that the Rishis of old India spoke of aerial craft powered by stored solar energy. Maybe also relative is that during 1965 a strange substance was excavated in Kashmir. The substance, which defied explanation, could be of significance to the ancient astronaut subject and perhaps also to the solar boat question. The strange "rock" appears to have once served a specific purpose and may be evidence of a sophisticated technology in early India and Kashmir. Whether the putty-like object could have been related to nuclear technology for example, or to plastic explosives as another example, or was a substance for storing solar energy, is all speculative. A Reuters report from Srinigar, Kashmir dated September 27, 1965 states: "Kashmir archaeologists have discovered a piece of rubbery stone which can be molded like putty. The stone, heavy,pink-colored and grapefruit-sized, is on display in a museum. Local archaeologists have begun a study of the substance which they believe to be unique." Possibly in this context, it was announced that after 20 years of research Japanese scientists developed a unique substance which stores electrical energy from the Sun for a period of 61 days.Also of interest,is that NASA has under development a seven-stage mercury-solar-ion propulsion spaceship motor which is similar in concept to the eight-stage mercury-solar-powered space vehicles described in the 3,000 year-old Rig-Veda.

In the Papyrus of Nu, No.10,477, sheet 8,we read: "There is a serpent on the brow of that mountain, and he measureth thirty cubits in length; the first eight cubits of his length are covered with flints and with shining metal plates."

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A Memphis cubit was about 524 millimetres in length. The "serpent" would have measured 15.72 metres in length. The serpent seems to be a metaphor to describe an elongated spaceship.

In 1980, Dr. Lawrence Kennedy, an American parapsychologist, reported that on a tour of Saqqarah, Egypt,he obtained an "unauthorized" view of a Third Dynasty tomb, circa 2,686-2,613 BC, which showed a hieroglyph of a "cigar-shaped" spaceship.

It was also at Saqqarah in 1898 that a 4,000 year-old Sycamore wood carving of a model airplane was found in a tomb of the Ancient Empire. This model, which is in the Cairo Museum, has a reverse dihedral wing and a vertical tail fin. See Figure 2. Other model aircraft, reportedly dating to the 3rd or 4th centuries BC have also been found in Egypt.

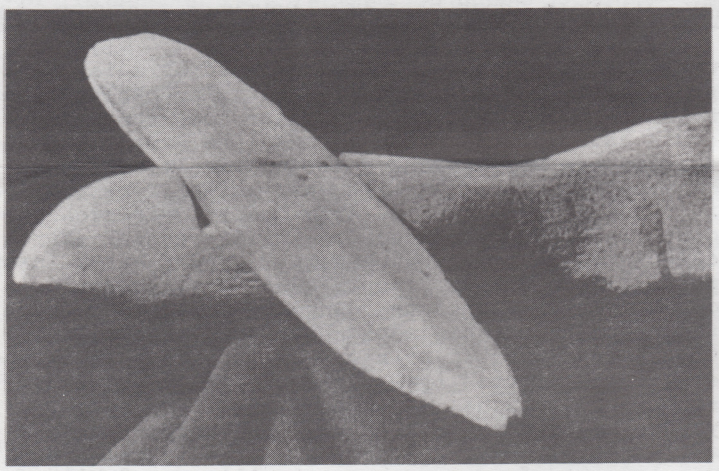

Figure 2. Model airplane found in 1898 in a tomb at Saqqarah, Egypt, now in the Cairo Museum. Dr. Khalil Messiha of the Museum said the model could represent a real airplane, remnants of which might still be found. Photo: Paris Match.

In Diggers for Facts by the American archaeologist Dr. J.O. Kinnaman, the author described his explorations in Egypt and Palestine, some of which were undertaken with Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie (1853-1942), the eminent British Egyptologist and archaeologist. Dr. Kinnaman said that during their 1924 investigation of the Great Pyramid they located a hidden vault which contained what appeared to be sophisticated technical objects, including an anti-gravity machine and thousands of crystal prisms, which they speculated may have been brought from Atlantis. It has also been reported that the two eminent archaeologists discovered 3,500 year-old metal insignia which could have been worn by pilots.

In an article in the Rosicrucian Digest by Willie Semple, the writer spoke of his discussion with Dr. Kinnaman who had told him about the find of technical objects in the pyramid. Dr. Kinnaman told Semple that "the world in general is not ready to understand and cope with this knowledge, much less really believe that it actually exists."

Related to these finds, it seems, could be research undertaken by the Danish electrical engineer and amateur archaeologist Frede Melhedegaard and described in his Tut-Ankh-Amon Er Vagnet.The author theorized that some Egyptian hieroglyphics appear to be stylized electronic circuits and stylized depictions of instruments and motors.

Many mysteries of ancient Egypt remain, while other mysteries of Egypt seem to have been recently solved: In this connection, while on a business trip to Cairo in 1987, a relative was unofficially informed that the so-called "curses" which protected the ancient tombs were in reality the reactivation by oxygen on opening the tombs of lethal dormant micro-organisms which had been artificially developed by Egyptian scientists thousands of years ago. In 1993 an Italian archaeologist announced that the reactivation of dormant micro-organisms from the distant past in the tombs was the likely explanation for the "curses."

A number of people associated with opening the tombs who perished showed symptoms strongly suggestive of a lethal infection. Does this prove that the micro-organisms in the tombs - whether bacterial, viral or fungal spores - were not natural but had been artificially developed and placed in the tombs?Were they the "curses" of the Egyptian tombs?

Absolute proof that the ancients knew of disease-causing micro-organisms, can be found in the Latin manuscript Rerum Rusticarum, 39 BC, which was written by the Roman philosopher Marcus Terrentius Varro (116-28 BC). Varro wrote that "Small creatures invisible to the eye fill the atmosphere in marshy localities and, penetrating with the air breathed through the nose and mouth,into the human organism, cause thereby dangerous diseases."

Some micro-organisms can survive in a dormant state for literally millions of years. The oldest known sample of dormant bacteria reanimated to life was the discovery in 1973 of 250 million year-old dried impacted bacterial masses on some ore samples raised from the Bereznik mines in the Ukraine. On soaking the reddish flakes of prehistoric bacteria in distilled water, the bacteria reactivated into thriving colonies. Two leading Russian scientists, Academician Ovchinnikov and Professor Perfilyev, ruled out recent bacterial contamination of the ore samples. Therefore, micro-organisms dormant in the Egyptian tombs for thousands of years, then reactivated, is not untenable, but is a logical theory.

There are more indications of other sophisticated sciences in early Egypt. As another example, polymer chemist Joseph Davidovits at Barry University, Florida, theorized that the "smooth shell" of limestone casing of at least three Egyptian pyramids, could be artificial. Natural limestone contains densely-packed calcite crystals; but the apparently artificial limestone revealed a less dense matrix and appears to be held together by up to 13% of a geopolymeric binder made up of sodium carbonate, phosphates, quartz and other ingredients.

Finally,the oldest Egyptian Zodiac at Dendera may hold a clue surviving in stone to reveal that the ancient Egyptian culture was at least twice as old as generally accepted, for the Dendera Zodiac shows the Vernal point in Leo,which would have been sometime between 11,000 to just under 9,000 years BC. If the Dendera Zodiac was engraved around this time period, this factor might even indicate colonization of Egypt by Atlanteans about that time, or even earlier.

BOOK REVIEW: ALIEN IDENTITIES:ANCIENT INSIGHTS INTO MODERN UFO PHENOMENA, by Richard L. Thompson. Published by Govardhan Hill Publishing, P.O. Box 52, Badger, CA 93603 (1993)

REVIEWED BY: DR. M. C. FOX, P.O. Box 423, La Luz, NM 88337 USA.

A Ph.D. in mathematics from Cornell University, the author's research and publications range from mathematical biology and satellite remote sensing to the cosmological literature of Ancient India's Vedic Culture. This book had a great appeal to me because of my cognate studies in Plato and, I believe, will intrigue other open-minded scholars who have, in their own research,been exposed to ancient scientific and philosophical traditions preserved in the sacred texts of civilizations which flourished thousands of years prior to our own.

According to Thompson, our present scientific model of reality is reductionist and mechanistic

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and strongly dependent on human logic and experiment, but is woefully deficient in explaining the rich tapestry of intelligent patterns and purposes in the dynamic living universe. He describes his book as "a comparative study of UFO literature and the Vedic literature of India." The contemporary UFO enigma is not unique to our age, as ancient texts confirm again and again, but it is a wake-up call to our civilization to clean out all the entangling intellectual cobwebs of ignorance, arrogance and deception so that we can entertain a new integrative model of reality. The UFO experience is as real now as it was in ancient times, and still puzzling to humans.

Among many examples from Vedic sources Thompson uses to show that humans have encountered many diverse humanoid beings from other places and/or other dimensions, I will cite one here in the story of Salva(from the Tenth Canto of the Bhagavata Purana), an earthly king who disliked the celestial Lord Krishna and vowed to destroy his city of Dvaraka. In order to further this objective, he gave his worshipful allegiance to another celestial, Lord Shiva, and was thus able to acquire a vimana, which the translator Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhurada very cautiously translates as "airplane":

> "The airplane occupied by Salva was very mysterious. It was so extraordinary that sometimes many airplanes would appear to be in the sky,and sometimes there were apparently none. Sometimes the plane was visible and sometimes not visible, and the warriors of the Yadu Dynasty were puzzled about the whereabouts of the peculiar airplane. Sometimes they would see the airplane on the ground, and sometimes flying in the sky; sometimes resting on the peak of a hill, and sometimes floating on the water. The wonderful airplane flew in the sky like a whirling firebrand - it was not steady even for a moment."

With this and many other ancient Indian examples, Thompson compares our own recent experiences of close encounters 1, 2, 3 and 4. Neither puzzlement nor ridicule has ever caused unidentified flying objects to disappear. As with all problems, the more we study and compare notes, the more we will discover about our living universe and the essential role of consciousness in each living entity. [Ed.Note: Dr. Thompson is co-author with Michael A. Cremo of Forbidden Archaeology - The Hidden History of the Human Race, also published in 1993 by Govardhan Hill Publishing. Dr. Thompson will be a speaker at the Society's World Conference in Bern, Switzerland August 17-20, 1995.]

MORE ON THE PERIOD OF ROTATION OF VENUS

BY DR. STUART W. GREENWOOD*

I wish to offer some comments on the contribution of Dr. Eugeniusz Filipowicz of Poland in Ancient Skies 21:3. I consider the period of rotation of the planet Venus around its own axis to be potentially very significant for our search for evidence of ancient astronautics. While I believe Dr. Filipowicz is correct in saying that there is no mention of the value of this period of rotation in the Logbook, it was used by me in the preparation of my material appearing in Ancient Skies 17:1.

In the diagrams accompanying my article, I show Earth in a fixed position, so the motions of Venus are shown as they would be observed from Earth. In one synodic period of 584 days, Venus is shown as completing four revolutions about its own axis while completing one revolution about the Sun. The motion of the planet about its own axis is retrograde, as shown in the diagram, so it is easy to see that the planet experiences five "days" in the course of one synodic period, each "day" on Venus lasting 117 Earth days (in round figures).

The aspect of this motion most commonly quoted is that Venus always turns the same face to Earth at Inferior Conjunction, when the planet lies between the Sun and the Earth. Since I prepared my earlier material I have learned that the synchronicity between the motions of Venus and the orbital motion of Earth is as exact as experimental measurement can determine. You can read about it in Shalav Zohar, Richard M. Goldstein and Howard C. Rumsey, "A New Radar Determination of the Spin Vector of Venus", The Astronomical Journal, August, 1980, pp 1103-1111.

Now, why should this information, which has only become available to scholars in recent years, be potentially so important to students of the ancient astronaut hypothesis? I believe it is important because it enables us to test whether information can be acquired that might indicate that significant changes have taken place in the atmosphere of Venus in relatively recent times. Today the planet's atmosphere is heavy, hot and poisonous, and the surface is obscured from view by complete cloud coverage. Scientists write the planet off as a possible source of ancient astronauts in spite of its proximity and similarity to Earth in size and surface gravity. Major changes are considered to have occurred on the surface about four hundred million years ago, and far enough back it may have had some water on the surface.

But let us return to the issue of whether we can indicate that Venus once had a less hostile atmosphere than it does today. It would be exciting, for example,if there were some evidence to suggest that the atmosphere of Venus was once more like that of Earth, with only partial cloud cover. Such indications would clearly provide a more promising environment for studies of possible astronautical contacts between Venus and Earth.

Visual observation of Venus today occurs because of the reflection of solar radiation by the cloud cover on the planet. If the cloud cover were partial, then solar radiation reaching the surface would be less strongly reflected by the rocks, the amount varying with locality on the surface of the planet.

Now if Venus once had an atmosphere with only partial cloud cover, you would expect that it would be more difficult to distinguish against the glare of the Sun when the planet was passing behind the Sun, around Superior Conjunction, because it would reflect less light than it does today. Periods of visibility of Venus would be shorter than they are today. Could there exist any ancient records showing the periods of visibility of Venus as being shorter than today? The answer is yes, indeed. The records of visibility of Venus given in two of the surviving codices of the Maya of Central America show shorter periods of visibility of Venus. I discuss this matter in Ancient Skies 12:4.

The next question to be considered is what effect the synchronous nature of the planet's motions would have on the lengths of the respective periods of visibility as Morning Star (before the planet ceases to be visible as it approaches Superior Conjunction) and as Evening Star (after it again becomes visible following Superior Conjunction). As surface conditions are not uniform, the amount of sunlight reflected from the now partially visible surface will vary with the planet's position in its orbit around the Sun. One would therefore expect the interval of invisibility following Superior Conjunction to be different from the period of invisibility prior to Superior Conjunction. Another way of putting this is to say that one expects the periods of visibility as Morning Star and Evening Star respectively to be unequal, small variations in the period of invisibility around Inferior Conjunction having little influence on these periods.

Are there any ancient records showing such differences in the intervals as Morning Star and Even-

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ing Star respectively? Again, and indeed, yes there are such records. They occur in the Mayan codices mentioned above,and I represent the effect diagrammatically in my article in Ancient Skies 17:1. Coupled with the fact that these periods of visibility were shorter than observed today we have here a fascinating indication that Venus was once observed from Earth at a time when the atmosphere of the planet was accompanied by only partial cloud cover.

I believe there are other clues to possible ties between Venus and Earth in antiquity, though the scenarios currently being developed by space scientists do not encourage such theorizing. I like to believe that one day there will be some accomodation between what they and we are doing.

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PALEOCONTACT IDEAS IN THE MIDDLE AGES

BY DR. MATEST M. AGREST**

The year 1994 marks the eight hundredth anniversary of the birth of the great thinker and medieval scholar Rabbi Moshe Ben Nackhman-Ramban (1194-1270), who lived in the golden era in the history of the development of the Jewish religious and national culture. Two prominent schools existed at that time: the Tzorfat (French) School headed by the world renown Rashi and the Sephard (Spanish) School headed by a group of brilliant scholars including Rabbi Iehuda Halevi, Ramban and Rabbi Moses ben Maimon (Maimonedes). Ramban absorbed, analyzed and developed the deepest ideas of these two schools. Not only was he a great thinker, but also he possessed a very deep intuition and could feel many things lying on the edge of rationalism. He was a defender of Maimonedes Rationalism and at the same time one of the greatest cabalists and the first of them to openly develop the ideas of cabbala and to use some of them in his well known commentaries on the Bible. Ramban devoted many years of his life to the Pentateuch commentaries and finished them only after he moved to the Promised Land in 1267 AD.

Sometimes Ramban evaded an open explanation of his ideas, noting that there is a hidden "secret". Later two of his followers composed two books especially devoted to interpret Ramban's "secret." (See Note). Here is the English translation of the conclusion of Ramban's commentary to the verse Genesis VI,4: "But the Midrash 'Pyrkey Rabbi Eliezer'(chap.22),which is mentioned in the Talmud, treatise 'Juma' explains the word Hanphilim as Messengers fallen from the sky. That is the best commentary for the verse Genesis VI,4. But to explain the secret contained in this verse it is necessary to write very much".(1)

The English translation of Genesis VI,4 is: "It was then, and later too, that the Nephilim appeared on earth - when the divine beings cohabited with the daughters of men, who bore them offspring. They were the heroes of old, the men of renown."

For the contemporary reader it is evident that Ramban sees in this verse a record of the descending of manlike messengers from another world to the Earth; that is, paleocontact.

It goes without saying that more than seven centuries ago such an idea was very dangerous for the then ruling ideology. It was much more dangerous for a scientist to express such ideas, or even to think about them. Even 400 years later, Giordano Bruno was burnt at the stake because of his asserting of the existence of many other civilizations in outer space - an idea far less dangerous for the ruling ideology than Ramban's idea. But Ramban was not afraid to think and his great experience as an ideological fighter showed him how to save this idea for the coming generations.

I first read Ramban's impressive commentary in Israel two months after my lecture at the Ancient Astronaut Society's 20th Anniversary World Conference in 1993, where I had publicly expressed the same ideas about the meaning of Genesis VI,4. (2) Had I known about Ramban's commentary 35 years ago when I wrote the article, The Astronauts of Yore, (3), where I used Genesis VI,4 in favor of the paleocontact hypothesis, I would have called it the "Hypothesis of Ramban." It is not too late to do it now.

More than three and a half centuries have elapsed between the time Giordano Bruno formulated the idea of the existence of many civilizations in the universe and our scientific formulation of the hypothesis of paleocontacts with Earth. It is inadmissible to be waiting for many other centuries to prove experimentally the idea, which Ramban had hidden in his commentary with the word "secret." This Idea is very important for everyone and for civilization as a whole.

Note: The author wishes to express his many thanks to Rabbi Edward M. Friedman and Rabbi Prof. B. Visotzky for the essential aid in finding the two mentioned books, devoted to the deciphering of the "secret" in Ramban's commentaries. In the book Keter Shem Tow, by Shem Tow (Hebrew), there is nothing about the "Nephilim secret," but here is the English translation of the quotation from the other book, M'eerat Oinoim, by Izkhak D'men Acco (Hebrew): " I have received nothing about the 'Nephilim" from the cabalists. Rabbi Shashet made a special trip to the town Akko to visit Ramban and ask him about the "Nephilim secret." Ramban's answer was:I don't remember this secret, when I was young I had a good memory and relying on it I did not make any notes about this secret." One must not take this answer literally. Ramban was one of the greatest scholars till the end of his life. At the age of 73 he moved to the Promised Land and established a new school.Ramban's answer is to be understood only as it was used by the talmudists. When one of them did not want to reveal a secret or even to discuss any problem they used the sentence: Urwa parakh. That means "Look, a crow has flown by" and it was not dishonorable. Ramban's answer confirmed the assertion that Ramban had always considered that the deep cabbala ideas were only for the chosen ones. See J.H. Weiss, Zur Geschichte der Judischen Tradition, V. Theil, Wilno, 1911.

References:

(1) Ramban, "Genesis VI,4", Mikraot Gdalot, NY, 1965 (Hebrew).

(2) M.Agrest, "The Historical Evidence of Paleocontacts", Ancient Skies 20:6.

(3) M.Agrest, "The Astronauts of Yore" (Na Sushe i Na More), Geografgis, Moscow, 1961 (Russian).

**Dr. Agrest, a Ph.D in science, physics and mathematics, was the first scientist to advance the theory that Earth was visited in pre-historic times by intelligent beings from outer space. Now retired, Dr. Agrest emigrated from his native Russia and is living at 1635 Wallenberg Blvd., Apt. 201, Charleston, SC 29407-3540 USA.

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